

116TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 713

To amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for the eligibility for beneficiary travel for veterans seeking treatment or care for military sexual trauma in specialized outpatient or residential programs at facilities of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 23, 2019

Mrs. WALORSKI (for herself and Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

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## A BILL

To amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for the eligibility for beneficiary travel for veterans seeking treatment or care for military sexual trauma in specialized outpatient or residential programs at facilities of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2       *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. BENEFICIARY TRAVEL FOR VETERANS SEEK-**  
2 **ING TREATMENT OR CARE FOR MILITARY**  
3 **SEXUAL TRAUMA IN SPECIALIZED OUT-**  
4 **PATIENT OR RESIDENTIAL PROGRAMS OF**  
5 **THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.**

6 (a) ELIGIBILITY.—Section 111 of title 38, United  
7 States Code, is amended—

8 (1) in subsection (b)(1), by adding at the end  
9 the following subparagraph:

10 “(H) A veteran whose travel to a specialized  
11 outpatient or residential program at a Department  
12 facility is in connection with treatment or care for  
13 military sexual trauma.”; and

14 (2) by adding at the end the following new sub-  
15 section:

16 “(h) In this section:

17 “(1) The term ‘military sexual trauma’ means  
18 psychological trauma, which in the judgment of a  
19 Department mental health professional, resulted  
20 from a physical assault of a sexual nature, battery  
21 of a sexual nature, or sexual harassment which oc-  
22 curred while the veteran was serving on active duty  
23 or active duty for training.

24 “(2) The term ‘sexual harassment’ means re-  
25 peated, unsolicited verbal or physical contact of a  
26 sexual nature which is threatening in character.”.

1       (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by  
2 subsection (a) shall apply with respect to travel occurring  
3 after the date of the enactment of this Act.

